

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed April 26, 2006 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 37-40, 42-47, 49-52, 57, 58 and 69 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 1, 3, 10, 14-15, 17, 20, 24, 27, 53, 55, 59, 61, and 63 have been amended. Claims 70-76 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 2, 6-8, 11-12, 16, 25-26, 28, 30-36, 54, 60, and 64-68 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-10, 13-15, 17-24, 27, 37-40, 42-47 49-53, and 55-59, 61-63, and 69-76 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

### **Objection to the Drawings**

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to include legends in FIGS. 3A, 3B, 5C, 5D, 5E, and 6-13. In a phone conversation with the Examiner on July 20, 2006, it was clarified that the Examiner is requesting that the nomenclature corresponding to the reference numerals be added to each of the objected-to Figures. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

It is noted that "legends may be used subject to approval by the Office, or may be required by the examiner where necessary for understanding the drawings. They should contain as few words as possible." 37 CFR 1.84(o). It is submitted that incorporating a legend that refers to each of the reference numbers and its associated nomenclature only adds verbiage that is unnecessary for the understanding of the drawings, as each of the reference numbers and its associate nomenclature are clearly described in the specification.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 37, 38-40, 42-43, 44-47, 49-50, 51, 52, 57, 58 and 69 are allowable. The Examiner objected to claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 24-26, 27, 54-56, 60-62 and 63, but indicated that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 24-26, 27, 54-56, 60-62 and 63 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations

of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 2. Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 16. Independent claim 53 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 54. Independent claim 59 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 60.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15, 53, and 59, and their associated dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 70 recites the subject matter of objected-to claim 6, intervening claim 5, and base claim 1. New claims 71-72 depend upon claim 70 and recite the subject matter of claims 7 and 8. New claim 73 recites the subject matter of objected-to claim 20, intervening claim 19, and base claim 15. New claims 74-75 depend upon claim 73 and recite the subject matter of claims 23 and 27. New claim 76 recites the subject matter of objected-to claim 63 and base claim 59.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 70-76 are in condition for allowance.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21-23, 28, 30, 31-32, 66, 35-36, 68, 33-34, 67, 53, 59, 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frazier et al. (U.S. Patent 6,430,288 B1) in view of Dithie et al. (U.S. Patent 4,821,150). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended independent claims 1, 15, 53 and 59 as noted above, and cancelled claims 28, 30-32, 33-36, and 64-68, to advance this application to allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15, 53, and 59, and their associated dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

**SUMMARY**

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1, 3-5, 9-10, 13-15, 17-24, 27, 37-40, 42-47 49-53, 55-59, 61-63, and 69-76) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*July 21, 2006*

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Fitzsimmons", written over a horizontal line.

Karen A. Fitzsimmons

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KAF:cjc